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But I must now bring these remarks to a close, apologizing to the audience, and especially to those who are strangers in Manchester, for having detained them so long with a subject which has probably more interest for myself than for many of those whom I have now had the honour of addressing. I felt that matters of local interest would not be unacceptable to an Association which considers such topics to be not beneath its regard, and have therefore ventured to draw your attention to a subject which required, perhaps, the apology of being connected with the locality which the Association has now honoured with its presence, to justify its introduction, in this prominent manner, to your notice.

Capital Punishments in Lancashire during the last Sixty Years.

By R. W. HOPKINS, Esq.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Manchester,
24th June, 1842.]

SIR,

Preston, June 22, 1842.

THE subject of capital punishments having excited much attention of late years, it occurred to me that the enclosed paper might possibly be interesting to some of the members of the British Association, attending the proceedings of the Statistical Section, of which I understand you are the president. It contains "An Account of the Number of Persons capitally convicted who were executed, within the County Palatine of Lancaster, in each Year, from the Year 1782, inclusive, and the crimes for which they severally received sentence of Death."

It appears that within a period of less than 60 years last past, 260 persons have undergone the extreme penalty of the law, in this county, 10 of whom were females.

The last execution comprised in this statement took place at Kirkdale, in April, 1838.

The crimes of which the females were severally convicted may be ascertained by tracing the finger backwards to an asterisk (*) under the proper title, in the same line of figures.

I believe the contents of this paper to be very nearly if not quite, accurate; but it must *not* be considered as an *official document*. With this understanding, I request you to exercise your own discretion as to laying it before the Statistical Section, or not,

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

R. W. HOPKINS.

To G. W. Wood, Esq., M.P.

&c. &c. &c.

[A glance at the several classes of offences will show how much of the decline in the number of executions results merely from changes in our criminal code. ED.]

[illegible]